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PHILIP MORRIS, INC.

LAW DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

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TO: L. Inskeep DATE: 8 November 1977

FROM: N. Rainer

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON OFFICIAL ACTION OF 8/3/77 in PM 626

The subject invention concerns a smoking product comprised of a carbohydrate material that has been modified by ozone so as to have increased carboxyl content and reduced molecular weight. The treated carbohydrate is capable of forming a film from an aqueous solution or dispersion. The product is devoid of substances capable of introducing NO_x as a combustion product and produces smoking qualities superior to the untreated starting material.

The claims might warrant amendment to reflect the important characteristics of the invention. The water-soluble feature is disclosed in the specification at page 9, lines 13-14; page 15, lines 12-15; and page 20, lines 1-2. The reduced molecular weight is disclosed in the specification at page 15, lines 1-9 and page 20, lines 6-9.

An important consequence of the ozone treatment of the carbohydrate is the reduction in its molecular weight. This is required for securement of improved smoking qualities. The Briskin technology emphasizes that no reduction in molecular weight (i.e. "degradation," "cleavage," "hydrolysis," etc.) is produced. See, for example, U. S. 3,516,416--column 2, lines 70-72; column 3, lines 19 and 59-60; and column 4, lines 25-27 and 50-51 and also U. S. 3,498,752--column 3, line 19. Furthermore, there is no prior recognition of our discovery that, in a smokable film material, smoking quality is improved by reducing molecular weight.

The subject invention concerns film-forming materials and preferably those materials that can dissolve in aqueous solvents and produce films by removal of said solvents. Cellulose, the primary material of the cited references, is not a water-soluble material.

Whereas the cited references emphasize the use of NO_2 to achieve oxidation of polysaccharide materials, the present invention is limited to ozone. This innovation provides the advantage of avoiding the possibility of introducing into the smoking material nitrogenous groups capable of producing undesired NO_x in smoke.

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